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Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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EUR-08 /051 W
---------- 074186
R 081504Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6592

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2794

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF, US
SUBJECT: RABIN'S COMMENTS TO NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S COMMENTS DURING HIS MEETING THIS MORNING(MAY9) WITH NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE STUDY GROUP.

2. NEGOTIATIONS. RABN DWELT ON HISTORY OF PEACE EFFORTS IN MIDDLE EAST SINCE 1948, EMPHASIZING THAT SUSPENSION OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS ON MARCH 22 WAS UNFORTUNATE BUT HAD TO BE PUT IN PERSPECTIVE. HE CLAIMED THIS WAS BY NO MEANS END OF THE WORLD AND DEVELOPED THEME OF " IF AT FIRST YOU DO NOT SUCCEED, TRY, TRY AGAIN." IN CONTEXT THIS DISCUSSION HE REMARKED THAT THE " SECRETARY SHOULD NOTTAKE SUSPENSION OF MARCH 22 SHUTTLE SO PERSONALLY." HE HIT HARD ON THEME THAT ISRAEL MUST PREPARE FOR WAR, WHILE STRIVING FOR PEACE. IN THIS RESPECT, HE NOTED THAT ISRAEL COULD NOT ACCEPT AGREEMENTS WITH ARABS THAT WERE"VAGUE" MAKING POINT THATWHAT WAS TO BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS WERE AGREEMENTS COUCHED IN " DIPLOMAT'S LANGUAGE" WHICH ARE ACCEPTED PERHAPS THROUGH EXPEDIENCY AND LATER REGRETTED SINCE NO ONE COULD UNDERSTAND LATER JUST WHAT WAS MEANT. (AN OBVIOUS IF INDIRECT REFERENCE TO RECENT EVENTS IN SE ASIA). AT NO POINT IN HIS
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PRESENTATION DID RABIN SUGGEST IN ANY WAY THAT ISRAEL WAS
REASSESSING ITS POSITION, NOR THAT HE HAD ANY INTEREST IN COMING
UP WITH A NEW ISRAELI PROPOSAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. PLO. AFTER GIVING STANDARD ISRAELI DESCRIPTION OF PLO,
RABIN SAID THAT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES THERE WAS NO BASIS
FOR EVEN TALKING TO THE PLO, MUCH LESS NEGOTIATING WITH
THIS GROUP. HE AVOIDED DIRECT ANSWER TO QUESTION RE
ACCEPTABILITY TO ISRAEL OF PLO REPS IN OTHER DELEGATIONS AT
RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE BY NOTING THAT THERE COULD BE
NO NEW PARTICIPANTS AT GENEVA WITHOUT AGREEMENT OF ALL
PARTICIPATING PARTIES. HE ALSO MADE STANDARD PRESENTATION
OF PLO RE SOVIET DOMINATION OF ANY INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN
STATE ON WEST BANK IN GENERAL, AND PARTICULARLY IF PLO RULED
SUCH A STATE.HE ARGUED FOR PALESTINIAN SOLUTION WITHIN
JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN STATE(BUT DID NOT EVEN SUGGEST WHAT,
IF ANYTHING, ISRAEL MIGHT BE WILLING TO GIVE TO JORDAN
IN HAPPY EVENT HUSSEIN WERE TO EMERGE AGAIN AS NEGOTIATING
PARTNER FOR ISRAEL REWEST BANK AND GAZA).

4. WAR. RABIN EMPHASIZED THAT ISRAEL DID NOT WANT WAR, BUT
WAS PREPARED FOR WAR AND THAT ISRAEL WOULD WIN SUCH A WAR, AT
HEAVY COST, SHOULD SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE EVENT OCCUR. HE
TURNED ASIDE QUESTIONS RE LENGTH OF TIME ISRAEL WOULD
REQUIRE MASSIVE U.S.ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BY SHIFTING
DISCUSSION TO DANGERS OF U.S.AND EUROPE CAVING TO ARAB AND SOVIET
BLACKMAIL IN THIS RESPECT HE PORTRAYED SOVIET AND ARAB
POLICY AS BEING VIRTUALLY ONE AND THE SAME AND ALL THIS
IMPLIED FOR ISRAEL AND THE U.S.

5. SOVIETS. RABIN'S ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON ISRAELI-SOVIET
RELATIONS HAVE BEENREPORTED SEPTEL(TEL AVIV2763).
VELIOTES

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